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Claims

1. Method for controlling a number of bearers, said bearers being data transmission paths relating to a receiver and each bearer having at least one transport format (TF) describing properties of said bearer, in a cellular telecommunication system,
5 **characterized** in that the method comprises steps, in which
- a set of allowed transport format combinations (TFCS) is constructed (100), a transport format combination (TFC) being a combination of transport formats (TF) of a number of bearers, and
 - 10 - information, which is different from information explicitly specifying for each allowed transport format combination (TFC) the transport format (TF) for each bearer and which implicitly specifies said set of allowed transport format combinations (TFCS), is communicated (120) to the receiver so that said information, together with predefined information possessed by the receiver, enables
15 the receiver to construct said set of allowed transport format combinations (TFCS).
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said set of allowed transport format combinations is constructed by checking for each transport format combination, whether the combination is within predefined
20 limits.
3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a transport format combination identifier is assigned to each combination of said set of allowed transport format combinations.
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4. A method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that said assigning of transport format combination identifiers is performed according to a predefined rule.
- 30 5. A method according to claim 4, **characterized** in that said set of allowed transport format combinations is ordered according to at least the total bit rate of the transport format combinations, and said transport format combination identifiers are assigned so that the identifiers form a sequence of consecutive integer numbers.
- 35 6. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that

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said step of communicating information for construction of said set comprises the step of communicating of each allowed transport format combination to said receiver.

- 5 7. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said step of communicating information for construction of said set comprises the step of communicating of each non-allowed transport format combination to said receiver.
- 10 8. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said step of communicating information for construction of said set comprises the step of communicating at least one limit for construction of said set to said receiver.
- 15 9. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said step of communicating information for construction of said set comprises the step of communicating information specifying at least one transport format of at least one bearer, which at least one transport format of at least one bearer is not a part of any allowed transport format combination.
- 20 10. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that said step of communicating information for construction of said set comprises the step of specifying the differences between said set to a previous set of transport format combinations.
- 25 11. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a bearer request is admitted, if at least one of the transport formats of the requested bearer is a part of an allowed transport format combination.
- 30 12. A method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that transport formats used in a transmission between a receiver and a transmitter are identified by sending a transport format combination identifier from the transmitter to the receiver.
- 35 13. A method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that if either party of the connection detects that the transport format combination identifiers of the receiver do not correspond to the transport format combination identifiers of the transmitter, the transport format combination identifiers are reconstructed at at least one party of the connection.

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14. A method according to claim 13, **characterized** in that
said step of reconstruction comprises the reconstruction of transport format
combination identifiers at both parties of the connection according to a predefined
5 rule.

15. A method according to claim 13, **characterized** in that
in said step of reconstruction, one of the parties of the connection communicates its
transport format combination identifiers to the other party, which takes the
10 communicated identifiers into use.

16. System for controlling bearers in a cellular telecommunication system, said
bearers being data transmission paths relating to a mobile communication means
and each bearer having at least one transport format (TF) describing properties of
15 said bearer, **characterized** in that the system comprises
- means for constructing a set of allowed transport format combinations (TFCS), a
transport format combination (TFC) being a combination of transport formats (TF)
of a number of bearers, in a network element of the cellular telecommunication
system, and
20 - means for communicating information, which is different from information
explicitly specifying for each allowed transport format combination (TFC) the
transport format (TF) for each bearer and which implicitly specifies said set of
allowed transport format combinations (TFCS), to the mobile communication means
so that said information, together with predefined information possessed by the
25 mobile communication means, enables the mobile communication means to
construct said set of allowed transport format combinations (TFCS).

17. A system according to claim 16, **characterized** in that
said means for constructing a set of allowed transport format combinations
30 comprises
- a memory element for storing a set of allowed transport format combinations,
- means for checking whether a single transport format combination is within
predetermined limits, and
- means for adding a single transport format combination to said set of allowed
35 transport format combinations stored in said memory element.

18. A system according to claim 16, **characterized** in that

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said means for communicating a constructed set of allowed transport format combinations to a mobile communication means comprises
means for determining non-allowed transport format combinations.

- 5 19. A system according to claim 16, **characterized** in that the system further comprises means for storing a previously constructed second set of allowed transport format combinations,
and said means for communicating a constructed set of allowed transport format combinations to a mobile communication means comprises
10 means for searching the differences between a transport format combination set and said previously stored second set of allowed transport format combinations.
- 15 20. A system according to claim 16, **characterized** in that the system further comprises means for assigning a transport format combination identifier to each transport format combination stored in said memory element.
21. A system according to claim 16, **characterized** in that the system further comprises means for sending a transport format combination identifier for identifying the transport formats used in a transmission.